

PSEUDOCERCOSPORA LEAF SPOT OF YELLOW OR PRIMROSE JASMINE

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Yellow or primrose jasmine, *Jasminum mesnyi* Hance (*J. primulinum* Hemsl.), is a hardy, evergreen, rambling shrub having bright yellow flowers, attaining a height of up to 10 ft or 3 meters, and is native to West China (1,2,3). It blooms in early spring, and the blooms last about 2 months in areas of North Florida (1,3).

Though a number of diseases are reported (6,7) on various species of *Jasminum*, those pertaining to yellow or primrose jasmine are very few. Of these, the leaf-spotting fungus *Pseudocercospora jasminicola* (Muller & Chupp) Deighton (5) [*Cercospora jasminicola* Muller & Chupp (4)] appears to be the most common and perhaps the most important disease of *Jasminum mesnyi*.

SYMPTOMS. Leaf spots are subcircular to irregular, reddish brown, often with a darker border and with a slight yellow halo, up to 10 mm in diameter, and occurring more frequently along the tip and margins of leaves (Fig. 1). Leaf spots become evident near the onset of flowering.



Fig. 1. Leaf spot of yellow jasmine caused by *Pseudocercospora jasminicola*. (DPI Photo #702439-1 and #702439-2)

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CONTROL. Benomyl plus mancozeb, applied according to manufacturers recommendations, is suggested for control, should disease severity warrant control measures.

SURVEY AND DETECTION. The appearance of irregular, reddish brown leaf spots usually occurring at the tips and margins of leaves at about the time of flowering is evidence of this disease.

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